



The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 17 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
17 FEBRUARY 1967

1. North Vietnam

A recently captured 12-page letter from First Party Secretary Le Duan to the compatriots in the south gives the lie to Hanoi's claim that the Liberation Front is an independent agent. Written in late 1965 or early 1966, the letter tells the southerners, among other things, not to concern themselves with negotiations, which had been "unanimously entrusted to the Politburo," and would be pursued when conditions were ripe.

We understand the mission in Saigon is preparing this interesting document for public release.

2. South Vietnam

The constituent assembly, back to work after its long Tet layoff, has retreated on the troublesome question of the power of the legislature.

The draft constitution now gives the legislature power to recommend dismissal of the cabinet or individual ministers by a two-thirds vote. However, the President could refuse to comply, and the legislature would then have to come up with a three-fourths vote to force him to act.

This language should pose no serious problems for the military government, which in fact is hinting that if the assembly continues to behave, it will be allowed to sit as an interim legislature.

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3. Communist China

Press reports that anti-Maoists, supported by army units, have taken over the highly industrialized Dairen area, in southern Manchuria, appear exaggerated. We do see signs of considerable tension in this area, however.

Meanwhile, Peking has announced a Maoist takeover in a coastal province. The announcement was delayed five days, however, suggesting that Peking was not so sure about its sticking power.

4. Indonesia

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The ring continues to close on Sukarno, who for the last week has gone up and down like a Yo-yo, promising to resign or threatening to hang on forever, depending upon who had just talked to him.

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5. France

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6. Jordan

The court minister tells us King Husayn brought home the bacon--pledges for some \$23 million in aid--from his trip to Saudi Arabia and some of the Persian Gulf sheikdoms. This almost equals the money allocated to Jordan by the United Arab Command, and Husayn is more likely to see the color of it.

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